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STATE LEGISLATURE, MADRAS

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Monday, 28th August 1961.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I. EXPRESSION OF SORROW AT THE DEMISE OF SRI A. VEDARATHNAM PILLAI, A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is with regret that I have to report to the House the sad news of the sudden demise of Sri A. Vedarathnam Pillai, a Member of the Legislative Assembly, on the 24th August 1961 at Madras. The late Sri Vedarathnam Pillai took active and prominent part in the struggle for Indian Independence and suffered imprisonment several times. The heroic part played by him in the Salt Satyagraha Movement in 1930 and his participation in the historic march from Tanjore to Vedaranyam in this connection constitute a bright chapter in the history of the Indian struggle for Independence. He served the Indian National Congress devotedly in various capacities for over three decades. He was the founder manager of the Kasturba Gandhi Kanyagurukulam and Thaymanavar Senior Basic School at Vedaranyam. He was a Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly from 1937 to 1952 and again from 1957 till his untimely death.

Simple and saintly, the late Sardar Vedarathnam Pillai as he was called had a high sense of duty and it is sadly significant that he died in harness. In his death, Tamilnad has lost a staunch Congressman, a true patriot and a constructive worker.

I request hon. Members to stand in silence for a few minutes as a mark of respect to the deceased.

Accordingly, the Members stood in silence for a few minutes.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Performance of archanas

* 5 *S.N. Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have agreed to the performance of archanas in Tamil; and

(*b*) if so, why?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) & (*b*) The Home Minister told a deputation headed by Kunrakudi Adigalar, who met him, that without any prejudice to the rituals and modes of worship that have been in vogue in the temples, selected